

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-52 (Canceled).

53. (Previously Presented) A mask assembly for delivering breathable gas to a patient, comprising:

a frame including a central portion, a first side portion provided to a first lateral side of the central portion, and a second side portion provided to a second lateral side of the central portion;

a sealing member provided to the central portion of the frame and adapted to form a seal with the patient's nose in use;

first and second inlet conduits, each inlet conduit having a first end and a second end;

first and second angled connectors, the first angled connector provided between the first end of the first inlet conduit and the first side portion of the frame, and the second angled connector provided between the first end of the second inlet conduit and the second side portion of the frame;

a generally Y-shaped connector that interconnects the inlet conduits with a supply of breathable gas, the Y-shaped connector including a first connector portion to engage the second end of the first inlet conduit and a second connector portion to engage the second end of

the second inlet conduit, the first connector portion being angled with respect to the second connector portion; and

a headgear assembly to support the frame and the sealing member in a desired position on the patient's face, the headgear assembly including a pair of straps and a rear portion.

54. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 53, wherein the sealing member is removably coupled to the central portion of the frame.

55. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 54, wherein the frame and the sealing member form at least a portion of a sub-assembly that is angularly adjustable relative to the headgear assembly.

56. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 55, further comprising a plurality of visual indicators which can be selectively matched with a reference indicator provided adjacent the visual indicators to indicate a degree of angular adjustment.

57. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 56, wherein the plurality of visual indicators includes a plurality of spaced apart arrows and the reference indicator includes an arrow.

58. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 57, wherein the rear portion includes an upper strap portion and a lower strap portion that cooperate to define an opening through which an occiput region of the patient's head at least partially protrudes in use.

59. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 58, wherein the straps extend superior to the patient's ears in use.

60. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 59, wherein the central portion of the frame includes a central opening that accommodates the sealing member.

61. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 60, wherein the frame includes openings for CO₂ washout.

62. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 61, wherein the sealing member includes a nasal cushion.

63. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 62, further comprising a headgear connector to interconnect the frame with the headgear assembly.

64. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 63, wherein the frame and the sealing member are angularly adjustable relative to the headgear connector.

65. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 64, further comprising an indexing section structured to allow selective ratcheting adjustment of the frame and the sealing member relative to the headgear assembly while remaining locked in an adjusted position during use.

66. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 53, further comprising slotted connectors provided to the frame, wherein each of the straps includes an end that is structured to be threaded through a respective slotted connector.

67. (Previously Presented) A mask assembly for delivering breathable gas to a patient, comprising:

a main conduit portion including a central portion, a first side portion provided to a first lateral side of the central portion, and a second side portion provided to a second lateral side of the central portion, the first side portion defining a first inlet opening and the second side portion defining a second inlet opening;

a sealing member provided to the central portion of the main conduit portion and adapted to form a seal with the patient's nose in use;

a gas washout vent provided to the central portion of the main conduit portion, opposite to the sealing member, the gas washout vent including a plurality of openings for gas washout;

first and second inlet conduits, each inlet conduit having a first end and a second end;

first and second connectors, the first connector provided between the first end of the first inlet conduit and the first inlet opening of the first side portion, and the second connector provided between the first end of the second inlet conduit and the second inlet opening of the second side portion;

a generally Y-shaped connector to interconnect the inlet conduits with a supply of breathable gas, the Y-shaped connector including a first connector portion to engage the second end of the first inlet conduit and a second connector portion to engage the second end of the second inlet conduit, the first connector portion being angled with respect to the second connector portion;

an elongated member having a central portion that supports the main conduit portion and first and second side portions supporting slotted headgear connectors, the central portion including a pair of openings adapted to retain and locate the main conduit portion; and

a headgear assembly including headgear straps that are structured to be threaded through respective slotted headgear connectors.

68. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 67, wherein the first and second side portions of the elongated member are partially deformable so that the first and second side portions are flexible and bendable to conform with the patient's face.

69. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 68, wherein the elongated member is constructed of polymeric material.

70. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 69, wherein the elongated member is constructed of polypropylene.

71. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 70, wherein the sealing member includes a nasal cushion.

72. (Previously Presented) The mask assembly according to claim 71, further comprising an indexing section structured to allow selective ratcheting adjustment of the main conduit portion relative to the headgear assembly while remaining locked in an adjusted position during use.

73. (Previously Presented) A mask assembly for delivering breathable gas to a patient, comprising:

- a frame including a central portion and first connector portions provided to lateral sides of the central portion;

- a nasal cushion provided to the central portion of the frame and adapted to form a seal with the patient's nose in use;

- second connector portions coupled to respective first connector portions; and

- a headgear assembly provided to the second connector portions and adapted to support the frame and the nasal cushion in a desired position on the patient's face, the headgear assembly including headgear straps each including an end that is structured to be threaded through a respective slotted connector supported by the second connector portions, wherein:

- the frame and the nasal cushion form at least a portion of a sub-assembly that is angularly adjustable relative to the second connector portions and the headgear assembly,

- a plurality of visual indicators are provided which can be selectively matched with a reference indicator provided adjacent the visual indicators to indicate a degree of angular adjustment, and

an indexing section structured to allow selective ratcheting adjustment of the first connector portions with respect to the second connector portions while remaining locked in an adjusted position during use.

74. (New) A mask assembly for delivering pressurized breathable gas to a patient, comprising:

a sealing member adapted to provide a seal with the patient;

a flexible tube having a lower end in pressure communication with the sealing member and an upper end structured for communication with a source of pressurized gas;

a headgear assembly structured to support the sealing member relative to the patient's face in use;

a forehead support member operatively associated with or formed as part of the headgear assembly and adapted to rest against the patient's forehead in use;

a transitional tubing piece provided to the upper end of the flexible tube, the transitional tubing piece having a relatively smaller end connected to the upper end of the flexible tube and a relatively larger end to connect with an air delivery conduit associated with the source of pressurized gas; and

a connector element including a Velcro™ loop to secure the transitional tubing piece in place relative to the forehead support member.

75. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 74, wherein the upper end of the flexible tube is positioned in use adjacent the crown of the patient's head, and the flexible tube extends from the crown and downwardly along but spaced from the patient's forehead in use.

76. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 74, further comprising:
a frame member of relatively rigid plastic material to support the sealing member,
wherein the sealing member includes a pair of nozzles formed on a common base portion all
made of an elastic material; and
an exhalation vent including a plurality of vent holes that extend through the frame
member.

77. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 76, wherein the frame member
includes an inlet in communication with the lower end of the flexible conduit.

78. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 76, wherein the plurality of holes
includes at least four holes.

79. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 76, wherein the holes also extend
through the sealing member.

80. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 74, wherein the sealing member is
a nasal cushion, and the mask assembly further comprises an exhalation vent with at least four
holes.

81. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 74, further comprising an angle adjuster structured to allow relative pivoting movement between the sealing member and the forehead support member.

82. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 81, wherein the angle adjuster includes a locking mechanism to allow locking of the forehead support member relative to the sealing assembly in at least three predetermined, discrete positions.

83. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 74, wherein a portion of the headgear assembly includes a two layer construction in which a first layer is a fabric or synthetic material and a second layer is a yoke made of a relatively rigid plastic material.

84. (New) The mask assembly according to claim 83, wherein the headgear assembly includes an occipital strap.